

# Pewsey Rural Sanitary Authority.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

### Medical Officer of Health,

1908.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1908, together with statistical tables, copies of which have been sent to the County Council, Local Government Board, and Home Office.

**Birth Rate.** There have been 342 births during the year in the whole district, being at the rate of 30·48 per 1000, this is an increase on the previous year of 2·22. Of these 167 were males and 173 females. There were 16 illegitimate births, 7 being males and 9 females. There are still a greater number of births in the Collingbourne district than in the Netheravon district, 157 in the latter and 185 in the former.

**Death Rate.** The number of deaths in the whole district was 164; to this must be added 8 deaths that took place in the Wilts County Asylum at Devizes and 9 in the Savernake Cottage Hospital, making a total of 181, or a rate of 16·14 per 1000. The number of deaths of persons belonging to the Netheravon district was 99, and to the Collingbourne district 82. Deaths occurring in the Workhouse were 19 in number, 6 more than in 1907.

**Infantile Mortality.** The total number of deaths under 12 months was 30, an increase of 6 over last year, the rate being 87·7 per 1000 infants born.

There were 11 deaths in the Netheravon District and 19 in the Collingbourne district, 6 of the deaths that occurred were illegitimate children.

During the past year the general health of the district has not been nearly so satisfactory as it was in 1907. During the early part of the year there was much Whooping Cough, Influenza, and Chicken Pox, especially in Burbage, Collingbourne Kingston, and Milton Lilbourne. Later an epidemic of Scarlet Fever broke out in Haxon and Fittleton, which was eventually checked by the War Office authorities erecting a Tent Isolation Hospital on Haxon Hill, where cases occurring both in War Office cottages and others were treated.

In May and June there were small outbreaks of Diphtheria in Huish, Oare, and Burbage.

In the third week of November Scarlet Fever broke out in the Woodborough School, which soon affected the villages of Manningford Bohune, Hilcott, and Woodborough. At the end of the year fresh cases were still occurring, and arrangements were made to take all fresh cases to the Devizes Isolation Hospital, the schools which are situated in the Devizes Rural District having in the meantime been closed.



**Schools Closed.** The following Schools have been closed during the year on account of epidemics:—Burbage, for Whooping Cough and Influenza, from February 21st to March 23rd; Collingbourne Kingston, for Measles, from March 31st to May 4th; Fittleton, for Scarlet Fever, from May 4th to June 22nd, also from 28th July to August 7th, and from September 7th to 21st; Wilcott and Oare, from 27th May to June 29th, for Diphtheria; Milton Lilbourne, from 6th January to February 10th, for Whooping Cough, also from February 24th to March 16th because of increase of Whooping Cough; Upavon, from July 3rd to July 21st for Measles; Woodborough, from November 25th to December 31st, for Scarlet Fever, and still remained closed in January, 1909.

**Notifiable Diseases.** There have been 66 cases of notifiable disease in the whole district, showing an increase of 44 over last year. There were 9 cases of diphtheria, 5 of erysipelas, 51 of scarlet fever, and 1 of enteric. Fifty-nine cases occurred in the Netheravon district and 7 in the Collingbourne. The distribution was as follows:—

**Diphtheria.** Pewsey 1 case, Oare 3 cases, Huish 2 cases, Burbage 3. All recovered.

**Erysipelas.** Collingbourne Kingstone 1 case, Milton 1, Alton Priors 1, Ludgershall 1, Upavon 1. All recovered.

**Scarlet Fever.** Haxon 18 cases, Fittleton 12, Collingbourne Kingston 2, Manningsfords 6, Woodborough 4, Hilcott 7, Netheravon 1, Bottlesford 1. All recovered with the exception of 2 of the Haxon cases.

**Enteric Fever.** One case at Charlton; this case was eventually removed to Savernake Hospital, where he died with tubercular complications.

**Water Supply.** The Water Works at Pewsey have progressed to a certain extent, the bore hole has been finished and the brick work has been completed, but since then nothing further has been done. A loan has been applied for to finish the work.

At Ludgershall water has been laid on in mains at Bell Street, 33 cottages being supplied, but has not been continued into Ludgershall; the water supply of this place is in great measure derived from three wells, which are used by very many cottages and houses, each person taking their own buckets to the wells, thereby causing risk of contamination, and also insufficient use of water both for household and cleaning purposes. A full report of the houses and number of people using these wells, also of other sources of water supply and absences of water in certain large premises has been made. Four new wells were sunk, 14 cleansed and repaired, and 12 samples taken for analysis.

**Houses.** Eight new houses have been erected, these are superior cottages, 12 have been made fit for habitation and 15 cleaned and whitewashed.

**Privies and Ashpits.** Thirty-one new pail closets have been provided and 80 privies converted into pail closets, and also 10 repaired.

**Scavenging.** Thirty-nine privies and ashpits and 23 portable receptacles have been cleaned and 11 loads of refuse removed. The condition of the streets, especially in Pewsey, are still in an unsatisfactory condition, particularly in the summer months.





I have made the following inspections:—Eight butchers' shops and slaughter-houses. Report on pigsties in Ludgershall and also two insanitary fish shops in the same place, the conditions have been remedied. Report on scarlet fever outbreak at Haxon and Littleton, also of that in the Woodborough district. Thirty-seven bakehouses have been inspected and in 2 cases notices sent. The Sanitary Officer inspected thirty bakehouses, that being the number on the register.

Thirty-five factories and workshops were inspected and in no case was it found that there were any notable defects. A record of the above premises has been kept.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.** During the year I have inspected 118 dairies and cowsheds. The number of persons engaged in the milk trade on the register is 109. The dates of my inspections extended from March 28th to September 30th, 1908, inclusive. There were 303 men employed as milkers and 2,418 cows milked.

In 9 cases notices were sent as to defects in yards and cowsheds, &c. The condition of the cows with regard to cleanliness as a whole shows still further improvement, this is also the case with regard to the larger cowsheds. In the larger dairies it has become the rule to have the cows clipped and tails docked before going into winter quarters. As a rule the yards are not properly drained and there is often a large accumulation of manure. The conditions in the smaller dairies show some slight improvement, but others are still very bad.

Very little has been done to systematically provide clean garments for the milkers; and the dirty sacking has been adhered to in most cases.

A complete record of all Cowsheds has been kept, regarding the date of inspection, number of men employed, number of cows milked, water supply, distribution of milk, and general conditions.

There has been no action under the Food and Drugs Act or the Factory and Workshops Acts, during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

EDWARD W. RAYMENT, M.B., C.M., B.Sc.,

*M.O.H. to the Pewsey Union.*



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Plomesgate.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Twenty-eighth Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the Rural District of Plomesgate.

## Births.

During the year 1908 there were registered 346 births, giving a birth-rate of 21·3 per thousand inhabitants, this being '8 lower than the rate for 1907, and 1·9 lower than the average for the past 10 years.

## Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 228, being 23 more than were registered in 1907, and giving a death rate of 14·6 per 1000 inhabitants, this rate is 1·3 higher than in the previous year, and slightly lower than the average for the past 10 years.

The infantile death rate for the past year was 86·1 per 1000 births registered, which compares favourably with that of 92·1 for the year 1907. Of the 30 deaths occurring during the year, under one year of age, 8 were due to Premature Birth. Of the remaining 198 deaths 122 were over 65 years of age.

In the Union Workhouse 17 deaths occurred during the year, 8 of which were above 65.

## Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

During the year 1908 there were registered 5 deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases, one from Diphtheria, 2 from Enteric Fever and 2 from Diarrhœa.

## Outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

There were 53 cases of infectious disease, notified during the year 1908, being 15 more than the number occurring in 1907, and comprising 25 cases of Diphtheria, 23 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Enteric Fever and 1 of Erysipelas.

## Small-Pox.

No case of Small-pox has occurred within the district during the year 1908.

## Diphtheria.

Of the 25 cases of Diphtheria 21 occurred in connection with an outbreak at Orford, which commenced at the end of August, the first case notified being that of a visitor, and cases continued to occur, principally amongst the school children, until the close of the year. In consequence of the prevalence of the disease amongst the children, the Schools were closed during the first week of November, and remained so until the end of the year. Most of the cases were of a mild character and no death occurred in connection with the outbreak. A serious nuisance, in the form of a large collection of refuse, deposited upon the Castle Green, was, after considerable delay, remedied, and the old-standing nuisance of the sewerage pit on the marshes, at the back of Quay Street, was temporarily abated, and a permanent remedy is under the consideration of the District Council.

One case occurred at Blaxhall, which had a fatal termination, and the cause of which I was unable to ascertain.

Two cases occurred in one house at Letheringham which I attributed to the very wet condition of the soil surrounding the house, and to the fact that pigs and a number of fowls were kept upon the garden or yard, the drainage from which found its way to the foundation of the house.



One case occurred at Glemham Magna, this child attended the Schools, which I found in a very unsatisfactory condition, as also did other children who had suffered with Sore-throats. The schools and premises were cleansed and permanent improvements are contemplated by the Managers.

**Scarlet Fever.**

Of the 23 cases of Scarlet Fever 14 occurred at the College, Framlingham, and I believe it was a continuation of the outbreak of the previous year. Four cases occurred in one house at Earl Soham, the first case being probably infected at Framlingham; one case occurred at Parham in which I could not trace the source of infection; two in close proximity to the College, Framlingham, and one at Hazlewood, which was infected by a visitor who had come from London, and one at Friston, infected by contact with the case at Hazlewood.

**Enteric Fever.**

There were only 3 cases of Enteric Fever notified during the year, two being at Framlingham and one at Easton, and in neither case was I able to state a likely cause for the appearance of the disease.

**Erysipelas.**

Only one case of Erysipelas was notified during the year.

**Puerperal Fever.**

One case of Puerperal Fever occurred in the Parish of Sudbourne which was removed to the Subourne Cottage Hospital.

**Whooping-cough.**

During the early part of the year, Whooping Cough was very prevalent in the Parishes of Framlingham, Cransford, Rendham and Wiekham Market, in consequence of which the four Schools were closed. Three deaths of infants were registered from this disease and its sequelæ.

**Measels.**

There was only one outbreak of Measles, which was at all serious, this occurred at Glemham Parva, and the Schools were closed for two weeks.

**Influenza.**

There were eleven deaths registered, during the year, with Influenza as the primary cause, principally amongst the aged, but the disease was not at any time as prevalent as in previous years.

**Diarrhœa.**

Very few cases of Diarrhœa came under my notice during 1908; two deaths were registered as being caused by it.

**Phthisis.**

There were 17 deaths due to Phthisis, being 10 more than the number returned in 1907.

**Cancer.**

The number of deaths from Cancer was 15, being an increase of 5 on the number occurring in 1907.

**Water.**

During the past year I examined 30 samples of water, 7 of which I found unfit for drinking purposes.

**Over-crowding.**

Six cases of over-crowding, which occurred in the district during the year, were abated by the elder members of the families going into lodgings.

**Slaughter-houses.**

During the past year I have, at various times, visited all the slaughter houses in the district and found them in a satisfactory state.

**Lodging house.**

I have visited the Common lodging house at Framlingham twice during the year, and found it very clean and conducted in a satisfactory manner.

**Sanitary  
Inspector's Report.**

The report of the Sanitary Inspector shews that he has made a very great many visits of inspection in every Parish of the Plomesgate Rural District; that 86 nuisances arising from privies, drains, &c., have been abated, that 6 new houses have been built, and that 13 new privies and earth closets have been made, that he has attended to the disinfection of all houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred, and that he has visited all the registered dairies and cowsheds in the district, six of which have been closed, and in seven, new floors and drains have been laid.



# The Factory and Workshops' Act.

## Workshops.

The workshops in the district, which number about 120, I have visited twice during the year and found them in a satisfactory condition.

## Occupations.

The population of the Plomesgate Rural District is almost entirely engaged in agricultural work.

## Cottages.

The cottages in the district are, as a rule, sufficiently large for the families occupying them, have large gardens attached, and with few exceptions, are kept in a cleanly state.

## New houses.

The six new houses which have been built in the district during the year 1908, have all been provided with a good water supply.

## Drainage.

There are drainage works at Framlingham, which are, at the present time, not quite satisfactory, and remedial measures are under the consideration of the District Council. There is a partial system of drainage at Wickham Market, and Orford, the removal of the outfall, in the latter place, to a position on the marshes, further from the town is in contemplation.

## Water.

The water supply which is principally from wells on the lighter soil and from ponds in the heavy land portion of the district, has been quite up to the average, both in quantity and quality.

## Dairies.

Regulations, drawn up by the District Council, have been in force since Jan. 1st, 1908, for the better management of the dairies and cowsheds.

## Bake-houses.

I have visited all the bakehouses in the district, twice during the year 1908, and found them, with one exception, to be in a clean and satisfactory state.

## Infectious Diseases.

There was a great decrease in the number of cases of infectious disease for the first half of the year, only 5 cases being notified during that period, all cases were visited as soon as possible, disinfectants supplied and such directions given as would tend to prevent the disease spreading.

I append tables of mortality and disease, classified according to age, locality and disease.

I beg to remain, my Lords and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

**J. CORDY KEER,**

*Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District of Plomesgate.*

*February 25th, 1909.*

